



A Car Kit Could Save Your Life!

Check the antifreeze, oil and fluid levels, the heating/AC system, and check the tires and make sure there is plenty of tread.

Assemble a Car Kit

A **Car Kit** can literally save your life. Wise drivers store emergency supplies in their car trunks.

Items in your **Car Kit** should include: a battery-powered radio with spare batteries (in case your car radio fails), a flashlight with extra batteries, a first aid kit with a manual, an extra blanket or two, and extra clothing. Booster cables are important for any time of the year but especially in winter to restart a dead battery.

Shovels, a box of sand or old house shingles are a must. The sand and/or the shingles will give tires needed traction to get back on the road.



If You Are Stranded In Your Car...

Every winter, travelers get stranded in their cars during snowstorms. Don't become a casualty.

Listen to the weather reports. If you think bad weather is heading your way, fill up the gas tank. Drive only if it is necessary during a storm. Tell someone your anticipated arrival time and route. If you don't arrive at your destination in a reasonable time, your contact can alert authorities to initiate a search. However, if you are caught in a snow or ice storm, the following tips may help you protect yourself.

First, stay in your car. Don't leave the car unless you can see a building close by where you can take shelter. Be careful because distances can be distorted in the snow. A building may seem close but be too far to walk in deep snow.

Second, display a sign you are in trouble. Turn on your flashers or tie a bright cloth to your antenna.



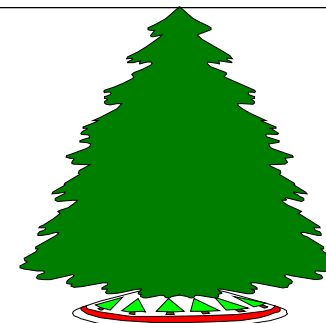
Winter Weather Terms

The National Weather Service issues a variety of winter weather watches, warnings and advisories. Here are a few definitions to help citizens prepare for severe winter weather.

Winter Storm Watch: The potential exists for heavy snow (6 inches or more in 12 hours or less or 8 inches or more in 24 hours or less), or dangerous accumulations of ice during the next 24 to 36 hours. Dangerous wind chill readings and blowing/drifting snow is also possible.

Winter Storm Warning: Heavy snow or a dangerous accumulation of ice is imminent or occurring. Very low wind chill readings and strong winds may also occur.

Winter Weather Advisory: Winter precipitation is expected (snow, sleet or freezing rain alone or in combination) to result in travel problems, but the accumulations are expected to be below the criteria used in a warning.



Fire Safety Tips For A Safe Holiday Season

A candle-lit Christmas tree at grandmother's house may be a thing of the past, but fire hazards still loom in American homes. Don't let this season's joy turn into holiday tragedy.

Here are some household safety tips to help combat holiday fire hazards.

Decorate Christmas trees with consumer-inspected lights and double-check for frayed wires.

- Don't overload electrical outlets. Check the power capacity of your house and stay within wattage limits.

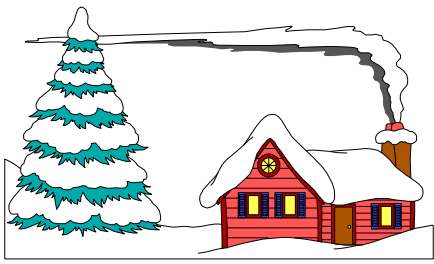
- Keep presents away from the tree lights.

- Keep the tree well watered, as dry trees burn explosively.

- Do not place the tree near a fireplace or an exit.

- Do not burn gift-wrappings in the fireplace, as this can cause a chimney fire.

- If you use candles, place them in a safe place away from any flammable material. Be sure all children know the



dangers of candles, chafing dishes, pot-pourri scent pots, the fireplace and space heaters.

- Keep clutter away from the stove while cooking. If grease catches fire, do not throw water on it. Cover the pan with a lid. In order to avoid injury, turn pot handles in over the stove and never wear loose clothing while cooking. Don't leave cooking food unattended for extended periods of time, since this is the most common cause of cooking-related fires.

- Buy and install a smoke detector. If you already have one, clean and test it. Working smoke detectors can double your chances of survival.

- Practice home fire drills. Designate two exits from every room, make sure all family members are aware of an outside meeting place, and get out quickly.

- Know your community's emergency telephone numbers and how to call for help.

**For More Information Contact:
Your Local
Emergency Management Agency**

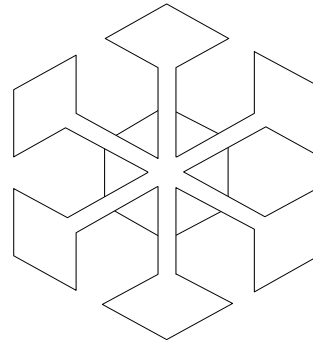


Ice Storm Warning: Dangerous accumulations of ice are expected with generally over one-quarter inch of ice on exposed surfaces. Travel becomes nearly impossible, and widespread downed trees and power lines often result.

Wind Chill Advisory: The combination of low temperatures and strong winds will result in wind chill readings of -20 degrees F or lower.

Wind Chill Warning: Wind chill temperatures of -35 degrees F or lower are expected. This is a life-threatening situation!

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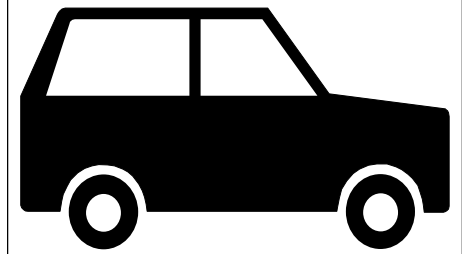
Open a window slightly to prevent freezing rain and snow from sealing you in the car. Make sure the open window faces away from the wind.

Make sure someone is awake at all times. If you are alone, stay awake for as long as possible.

Keep warm! Turn the car engine on for about 10 minutes each hour and run the heater. However, before you turn on the engine, make sure the exhaust pipe is clear of snow.

Use items in your car to keep you warm. Stuff road maps and newspapers in your clothes. Use floor mats and removable seat covers for insulation. If there are several passengers, huddle together for warmth and use coats as blankets. Don't forget to exercise by clapping your hands, moving your arms, legs and toes. Don't drink — Alcohol makes the body lose heat.

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Anyone who travels with children knows the importance of having snacks and drinking water on long trips. If you store these items in the car trunk now, they will be handy if you get caught in a storm.

If you have car trouble on the road, a fluorescent orange cloth tied to the antenna and safety flares will alert other drivers that you need help.

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